

1997 Virginia Aquaculture Report

Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service P.O. Box 1659 Richmond, VA 23218

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About The Survey:

The results presented in this report were obtained through a census of all known aquaculture producers in Virginia. Data were collected in 1998, through mail, telephone, and personal interviews.

The total gross sales presented here does not include sales of wild-captured or wild-harvested species; only species that are raised under controlled conditions are included.

The Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service would like to thank all the producers that took time out from their busy schedules to participate in this survey. Without your cooperation, these reports would not be possible.

VIRGINIA HIGHLIGHTS

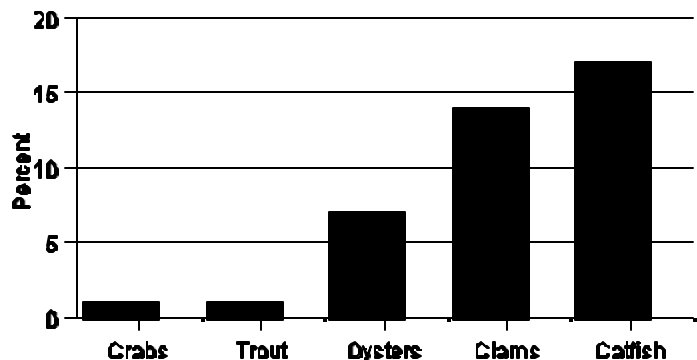
Virginia aquaculture producers grossed over \$22.7 million in sales in 1997. Saltwater species accounted for \$17.4 million dollars of the total aquaculture sales with clams supplying over \$9.0 million dollars in gross sales. Freshwater species brought in \$5.3 million with trout sales accounting for 43 percent of these freshwater receipts.

Clam production is up 17 percent from 1995. This increase follows the trend of recent years as new beds reached maturity in 1997. Although clam production has increased, many producers were faced with disease and weather related problems. A few producers reported losses due to predators. Softshell crab production was also up sharply over 1995. New shedders entering into the market combined with higher prices resulted in a 46 percent increase in gross sales over 1995.

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1998 Production Intentions

Percent Increases



SALTWATER PRODUCTION

VIRGINIA SALTWATER PRODUCTION

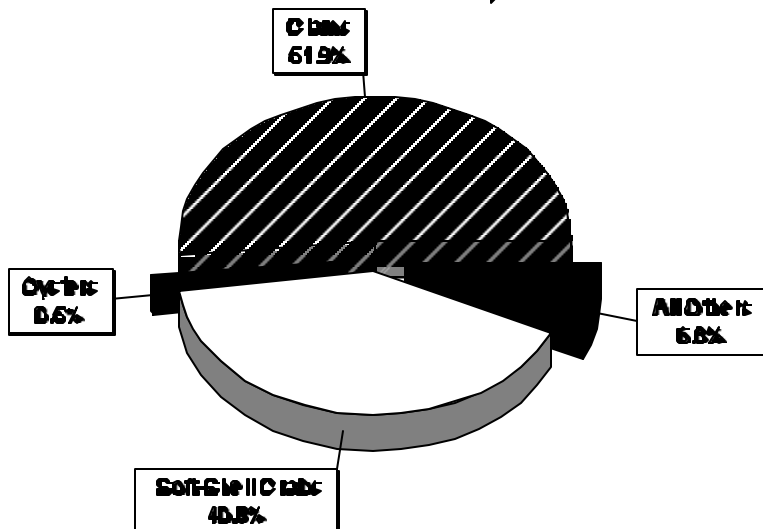
Production, Price, and Gross Sales, 1995, 1997 and Intentions for 1998

Species	Unit	Production		Price (Dollars)		Gross Sales (Dollars)		Intentions for 1998 as % of 1997
		1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997	
Clams, Mature 1/	Each	43,710,000	52,426,931	.16	.17	6,993,600	9,012,948	120
Soft-shell Crabs	Dozen	417,705	499,651	11.59	14.18	4,840,142	7,083,347	101
Oysters, Mature	Each	259,000	308,411	.24	.28	62,160	85,832	107
All Other Species2/		---	---	---	---	1,159,000	1,176,176	127
Total Saltwater		---	---	---	---	13,054,902	17,358,303	120

1/ 1995 revised. 2/ Includes scallops and seed/juveniles for all species.

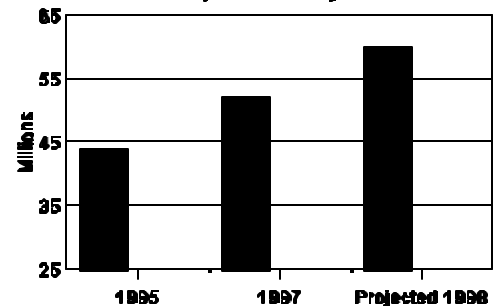
Saltwater Species

Percent of Total Sales, 1997



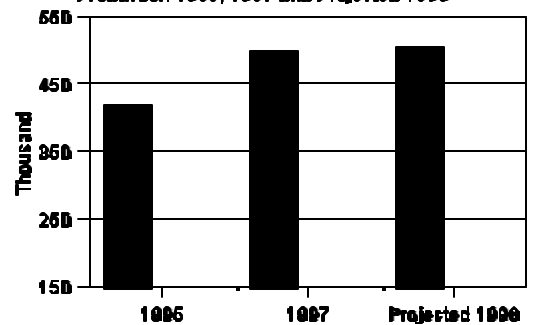
CLAMS

Production 1995, 1997 and Projected 1998



SOFT-SHELL CRABS

Production 1995, 1997 and Projected 1998



VIRGINIA FRESHWATER AQUACULTURE

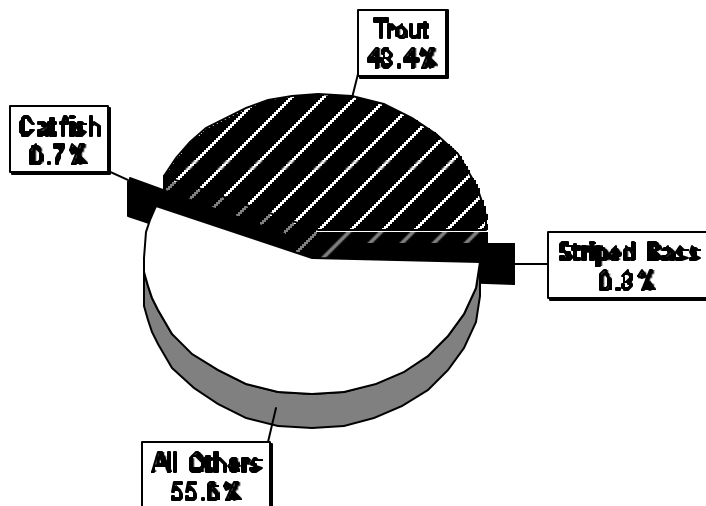
Production, Price, and Gross Sales, 1995, 1997 and Intentions for 1998

Species	Unit	Production		Price (Dollars)		Gross Sales (Dollars)		Intentions for 1998 as % of 1997
		1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997	
Trout, All 1/ 2/	Lbs.	1,230,580	1,120,389	1.91	2.05	2,350,412	2,301,200	101
Catfish 1/	Lbs.	15,695	19,503	2.10	1.85	33,035	36,173	117
Hybrid Striped Bass	Lbs.	11,750	5,128	3.57	3.27	41,986	16,782	692
All Other Species 2/ 3/		---	---	---	---	2,797,870	2,950,946	215
Total Freshwater		---	---	---	---	5,223,303	5,305,101	164

1/ Immature fish and eggs included in Trout and Catfish categories. 2/ Trout sales reflect a 1997 calendar year instead of September 1 to August 31 period reported on the annual trout survey. Includes operations with less than \$1,000 sales. 3/ Includes tilapia, sport fish, ornamental, crayfish, immature fish and eggs, minnows, and aquatic plants.

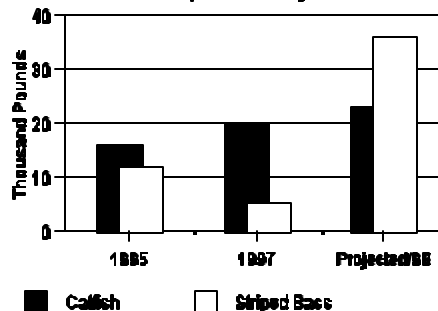
Freshwater Species

Percent of Total Sales, 1997



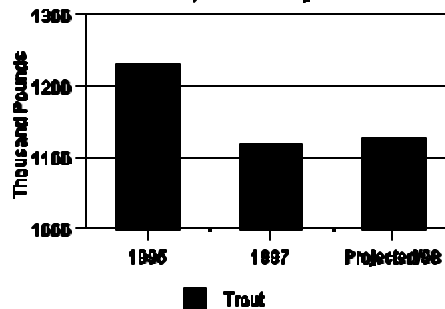
Catfish & Striped Bass

Production 1995, 1997 and Projected 1998



Trout

Production 1995, 1997 and Projected 1998



HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

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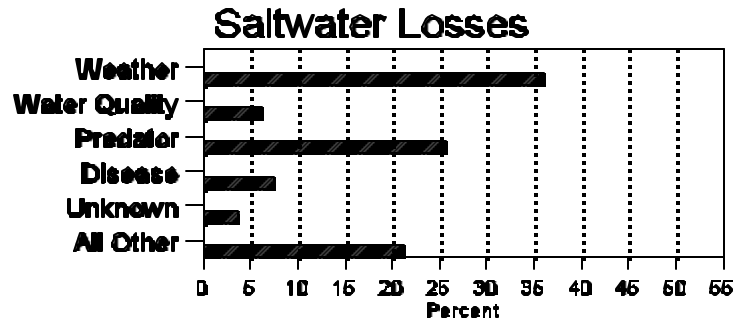
Softshell crab losses were contributed to power outages, flow thru systems problems, water quality, temperature, and lack of oxygen. Some of these losses put a few producers out of business.

Mature Oyster sales showed a slight increase over 1995. Bad weather and excessive heat was the leading cause for oyster losses.

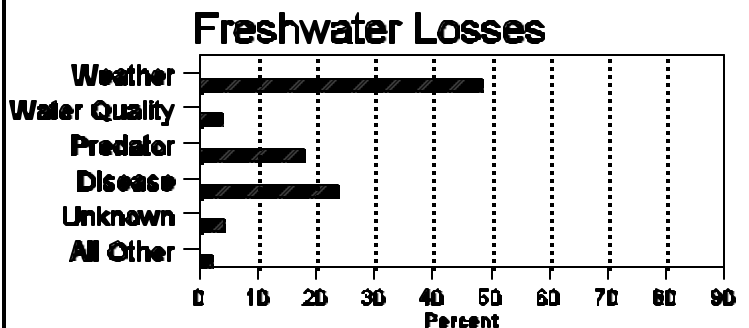
Trout production decreased nine percent from 1995, however, total gross sales was down only two percent. Trout sales have hovered around the two million dollar mark for the past ten years. Predators, water quality, diseases and lack of oxygen were leading contributors to the loss of trout.

Catfish production was up 24 percent. Gross cash receipts for catfish was up nine percent due to lower prices. Projected production for 1998 indicates a 17 percent increase. Catfish losses involved predators, water quality, and unknown causes.

All major categories are expected to increase even more in 1998. Clam production is expected to increase by 14 percent over the 1997 total and oyster growers plan to increase production by 7 percent. The production of hybrid striped bass is expected to go up by a whopping 692 percent. Catfish producers anticipate an increase of 17 percent, while trout is expected to rise 1 percent.



1997



1997

Note: Only reported losses included in totals.

For More Information Contact

Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service

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